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Attorney Docket: 852/48374

PATENT

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: KONRAD WEGENER ET AL.

Serial No.: 09/443,455 Group Art Unit: 3722

Filed: NOVEMBER 19, 1999

Title: FORMING PROCESS AND SYSTEM

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MAY 24 2000
3700 MAIL ROOM
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TC 3700 MAIL ROOM

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700
APR - 5 2000
1700

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §§ 1.97 and 1.98

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 CFR §1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 and/or listed herein and which the Examiner may deem relevant to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

STATEMENT OF RELEVANCE

The enclosed references were cited and discussed in the Background and Summary of the Invention in the specification of the present invention OR were cited in a corresponding foreign Search Report. In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 CFR §1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses an English-language version (if not already included) of that portion of the Search Report indicating the degree of relevance found by the foreign office.

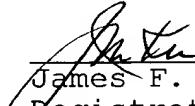
The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, and therefore no certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

If necessary, the paper should be considered as a petition for consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)(2) and that the petition fee set forth in 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.97(d)(3) should be charged to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #852/48374).

Respectfully submitted,

April 28, 2000



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